THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, March 4, 1805.

Characters of ſome of the principal Republicans of France in 1790.

ROLAND's habitation ſtill continued to be the chief reſort of that faction which, in the days of the firſt legiſlature, was ſuppoſed republican, and ſome members of which ſtill occaſionally gave indications of a wiſh to eſtabliſh that form of government, though no party was found hardy enough to avow the principle. Although declamations and writings, in which the perſon and rule of the king of France, and every other monarch, were vilified by wanton abuſe, or rendered odious by unſparing calumny, were profuſely uttered and ſanctioned by Briſſot and his faction; and, although their hoſtility to the perſon of Louis XVI. and to all that remained either in or out of France of nobility or clergy is undoubted; yet their ſincere deſire to eſtabliſh a republic is very queſtionable. Moſt of them were poor and venal, ready to be bought, but unuſed to be bid for, raiſing ſyſtems for the ſake of gaining importance, and diſpoſed to ſell themſelves and their projects to the firſt who would offer an adequate gratification. Many of them had commenced their political career as ſalaried adherents of the duke of Orleans; ſome quitted his party becauſe his patronage was previouſly occupied by others, and their ſervices neglected; and ſome formed a new connection, that, by acquiring power conjunctively, they might either uſe or diſpoſe of it to greater advantage.

Briſſot, the head of the party, had been from his youth toſſed on the ſea of ſpeculation, frequently reduced to want, ſometimes to meanneſs, and, if reports may be credited, even to crime. The neceſſity of writing for bread had given facility to his pen; but his ſtyle wanted vigour, his reaſoning method, and his ſtate-

ments correctneſs. Ever diſpoſed to give vent to ſentiments required by the occaſion, he was frequently under the neceſſity of contradicting himſelf; and few of his opinions can bear the teſt of declarations which he had made at ſome previous period. The love of innovation, more than a fixed principle, ſeems to have ſwayed him in politics: at one time he was an admirer of the Britiſh, at another of the American conſtitution; ſometimes deſirous to raiſe his patron, the duke of Orleans, to the throne; and then wiſhing to depoſe the king, eſtabliſh a regency during the minority of the dauphin, and govern both by means of influence in the legiſlature, and a party of unalienable friends. For all or any of theſe projects he was willing to receive a compromiſe, having, in fact, no principle, nor any patriotiſm; but he was obliged to affect both, as the means of raiſing and attaching to himſelf a party. He gained many adherents by an appearance of candour and mildneſs; but in his real character he was falſe, gloomy, vindictive, and unrelenting.

Roland was in himſelf an inoffenſive old man, endowed with little talent, and not much malice, choleric not rancorous, plain in manners and habits, brief in ſpeech, fond of reproving vice, and fancying himſelf a model of virtue. His early purſuits had rendered him diligent; and, having ſuperintended ſome public accounts at Lyons, he was flattered into a belief that his abilities were equal to the conduct of a ſtate, and his virtues ſufficient to reform a whole people. To this deluſion his wife greatly contributed; ſhe has often been mentioned as a woman of conſiderable talent; ſhe wrote with fluency and eloquence, thought with boldneſs and originality, and made her opinions ſtill more ſtriking by the force of her expreſſions and the vigour of her illuſtrations. In the whole courſe of the revolution, parties had been formed and cemented by women: Madame Necker, Madame de Stael her daughter, Madame Sillery, better known by her title of counteſs de Genlis, Madame de la Fayette, with a vaſt train of ſubordinate females, had been oracles and centres of revolutionary juntos; and Madame Roland aſpired alſo to the ſame character. She was conſiderably younger than her huſband; her perſon not devoid of attractions, though far from beautiful; and her wit, ſenſe, ſpirit, and behaviour, infinitely above moſt of the females connected with her party, ſuch as the wife of Condorcet, the miſtreſs of Louvet, and the mother of Petion, who were glad to acquire importance by joining her coterie. She ſeems to have poſſeſſed a more decidedly republican ſpirit than any of Roland's aſſociates, and diſtinguiſhed herſelf by a never-ceaſing ſuſpicion and malignity towards the royal family. This might originate from the neglect or contempt ſhe had ſuſtained in her early years, being the daughter of a Pariſian bourgeois; or from her deſpairing of ever attracting attention or ſecuring the homage which ſhe conſidered her due,

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within the purlieus of the court. Roland had not ſolicited a ſeat in the aſſembly, becauſe he was not an able ſpeaker; and Briſſot always relied on him as a fit perſon to fill a miniſterial ſituation, if their party could gain the deſired aſcendancy.

The chief ſupporters of this junto in the aſſembly were marked by common characteriſtics; a bold ſtyle of eloquence, unfettered by the regulations of decency, the reſtraints of truth, or the rules of logic. All ſpoke with confidence, all aimed at popularity, and all at ſome moments enjoyed it; but, as they acquired their popularity by momentary exertions not founded on ſcience or principle, ſo they forfeited it as ſuddenly when their own arts and arguments were uſed againſt themſelves. Such is the general character which includes Vergniaud, Iſnard, Guadet, Genſonne, and a herd of others, whoſe labours were highly extolled by their party, but afterwards only reſcued from oblivion to commemorate occaſional traits of atrocity.

Condorcet is diſtinguiſhed from this herd, and might perhaps have been conſidered the head of a party, had his talents as an orator been equal to thoſe he diſplayed as a writer, or had his courage been equal to his malignity. He was a true perſecutor of the church, and zealouſly attached to the atheiſtical party; having been the friend and pupil of the old, and principal inſtructor of the younger members. In other reſpects he was not equally conſiſtent, having been in his earlier days an aſſiduous courtier, though now among the foremoſt who endeavoured by their inſolence to diſguſt and degrade the king. Ingratitude prevailed in his character more than any other feature, except cowardice. He is exquiſitely deſcribed by his warm friend, Madame Roland. "The genius of Condorcet", ſhe ſays, "is equal to the comprehenſion of the greateſt truths; but he has no other characteriſtic beſides fear. It may be ſaid of his underſtanding, combined with his perſon, that he is a fine eſſence abſorbed in cotton. No one will ſay of him, that in a feeble body he diſplays great courage; his heart and conſtitution are equally weak. The timidity which forms the baſis of his character, and which he diſplays even in company, on his countenance, and in his attitudes, does not reſult from his frame alone, but ſeems to be inherent in his ſoul; and his talents furniſh him with no means of ſubduing it. Thus, after having deduced a principle, or demonſtrated a fact in the aſſembly, he would give a vote decidedly oppoſite, overawed by the thunder of the tribunes, armed with inſults, and prodigal of threats. The propereſt place for him was the ſecretaryſhip of the academy. Such men ſhould be employed to write, but never permitted to act: it is a happineſs to be able to draw ſome utility from them; even that is not to be done with all timid perſons; in general they are good for nothing."

Petion, now mayor of Paris, was alſo a conſtant attendant at Roland's; he was a compound of preſumption, folly, and wickedneſs; a tool to every party with which he was connected, yet in himſelf poſitive, headſtrong, and malignant. In the conſtituent aſſembly, he was ranked among the loweſt order of thoſe who endeavoured to force themſelves into notice by extravagance; his connection with the duke of Orleans was well known; and, as he was conſidered in no other light than one of his hired agents, no further attention was paid to his efforts than the views of his patron could command. The court was ſo thoroughly convinced of his folly, and had ſo little notion of his wickedneſs, that their friends did not oppoſe his election to the mayoralty, judging him a leſs noxious character than his competitor La Fayette. When inveſted with that office, however, he ſoon diſplayed more of his real character; and in time gave the royal family abundant reaſon to repent their error.

Danton was alſo at this period a member of the faction at Roland's houſe. He began to make a conſpicuous figure among the clubs, and to form the centre of a low and profligate party, devoid of morals, and eager for miſchief. His talent conſiſted in readineſs of ſpeech, and boldneſs of thought and diction. Ever intent on meaſures adapted to the preſent exigency, he thought neither of the paſt nor the future; hence his arguments, delivered in a ſtentorian voice, and with a ſtern brow, were always eaſily comprehended by his audience: and, as he was never ſcrupulous in his choice of means, his ſyſtems were generally popular, eſpecially among the lower claſs, to whom he moſt frequently addreſſed himſelf. Poor and fond of debauchery, he was open to every bribe; and has more than once addreſſed the clubs in the ſtyle of a republican, in order to gain a motion which the miniſter had hired him to make; but his mind was capable of great exertions, his thoughts were bold and original, and he was always diſtinguiſhed from the herd by the propoſal of meaſures and uſe of arguments, from which the timid would have ſhrunk appalled, and of which men devoid of a great genius would never have thought.

INTERESTING TRIAL.

GAME LAWS.

ROBERTS *verſus* STOUGHT, *et vice verſa.*

IT perhaps may be amuſing to the reader, as well as intereſting to the public, to be acquainted with the circumſtances attending the above caſes, which are—that Major General Thomas Roberts, of Chadlington, in Oxfordſhire, in the month of September

tember laſt, thought proper to exhibit an information before the Rev. Charles Weſtern, of Kingham, one of his Majeſty's juſtices of the peace for that county, againſt Mr. Charles Stought, of Chadlington aforeſaid, for having killed a partridge without being duly qualified; Mr. Stought afterwards appeared before the magiſtrates at Chipping-Norton, in purſuance of a ſummons granted for that purpoſe; and proved himſelf to be amply qualified, by being ſeized and in the actual poſſeſſion of a freehold eſtate of upwards of 100l. per annum, free from all incumbrances. The magiſtrates being perfectly ſatisfied with Mr. Stought's qualification, Mr. Stought then thought it but juſtice to call upon the general to prove his, and accordingly exhibited an information againſt the general before Francis Peny ſton, Eſq. an independent magiſtrate of that county, for killing a partridge without being duly qualified; and the general being ſummoned, appeared by his attorney, and not being able to prove his qualification by land, or otherwiſe, inſiſted on his qualification as being *an eſquire*, whereupon the juſtice determined he was not ſo qualified, and on the authority of the caſe of Jones *verſus* Smart, convicted the general in the penalty of five pounds. The general not being ſatisfied with Mr. Peny ſton's determination, on the 25th of January laſt applied by his counſel to the court of King's Bench for a writ of certiorari to remove this conviction, on the ground, that the general being an eſquire, or perſon of ſuperior degree, had a right to kill game, although he had no landed property. But after a good deal of diſcuſſion, the court held that the law, as laid down in the above mentioned caſe of Jones *v.* Smart, had decided the queſtion againſt the general, and therefore the motion was refuſed. The general has ſince paid the penalty.

Memoirs of the late John Wilkes, Eſq. Alderman and Chamberlain of London.

(Concluded from Page 150.)

BEING thus cut off from the civil community of his own country, Wilkes ſoon began to experience many of the evils of exile. In vain he endeavoured to diſſipate his uneaſineſs by a journey to Naples, and by diligent application to the compoſition of a hiſtory of England from the period of the revolution, from the ſale of which he hoped to receive a ſupply of money, an article now more than ever neceſſary in conſequence of the dilapidation of his fortune. The letters which he wrote at this period to his confidential friend, Mr. Cotes, betray a mind diſtracted by pecuniary embarraſſments, diſappointed ambition, and a thirſt for revenge. On the change of miniſtry

miniſtry in 1765, however, he conceived ſanguine hopes of being permitted to return to his country, and of receiving, in the ſhape of a lucrative employment under government, a compenſation for his loſſes.

Whatever diſpoſition ſome members of adminiſtration might feel to compromiſe with Mr. Wilkes, their opinion did not prevail in the cabinet; and the exiled demagogue, weary of uncertainty, adopted the deſperate reſolution of returning to England. He accordingly arrived in London in the beginning of November, 1766, and immediately applied to the duke of Grafton, requeſting him to make his peace with the ruling powers. His ſuit was however unavailing, and to his unſpeakable mortification he found himſelf under the neceſſity of returning to Paris. Soon after his arrival in that city, he gave vent to his feelings in a ſevere but well-written letter to the duke of Grafton, which contained an outline of his caſe, well calculated to excite the public ſympathy in his favour.

The publication of this letter contributed conſiderably to the increaſe of Mr. Wilkes's popularity. The public now ſaw that he was a perſecuted man. No miniſter of any party choſe to ſtand forward in his behalf; but they all avoided him, though all had been benefited by his means, immediately or eventually. The nation had more generoſity. They, in general, eſpouſed his cauſe: partly from commiſeration, becauſe they thought he had ſuffered more than his offence deſerved; and partly from gratitude, becauſe he had ſerved his country in ſome eſſential points of conſtitutional liberty. Though he had not a purſe to contend with the treaſury, yet he had the courage to riſk his all, together with his name; from the primary proceedings in the courts of law againſt the king's meſſengers, Mr. Wood, and others, by which the general warrant, and the arbitrary and violent conduct of miniſters, received the firſt condemnation. There was a merit in this firmneſs which the people at that time were not acquainted with. Mr. Wilkes might, even then, have ſecretly made his peace with miniſters; and inſtead of puniſhment, might have profited by connivance; for there was a ſtrong reluctance to relinquiſh this power of iſſuing general warrants. But his ſpirit was ſuperior to his compromiſe; and his exile was the conſequence. There is no revenge ſo acrimonious as that which is provoked by diſappointment. Certain offers were made through a channel which we are too near the time to reveal; and the rejection of which inſpired the moſt malignant indignation and reſentment. Though this circumſtance was not known to the nation in general, yet every one ſaw that peculiar animoſity pervaded the whole conduct of the court of St. James's, which could only be aſcribed to ſome prejudices wrought by miniſters, either official or efficient.

With a courage bordering on temerity, Mr. Wilkes toward the end of the year 1767, determined upon taking advantage of his popularity, and under that precarious defence to brave the fierceneſs of miniſterial vengeance. He accordingly fixed upon the period of the general election for his return to England, and on the 7th of February, 1768, he arrived in London. On the 12th of March enſuing, parliament was diſſolved, and Mr. Wilkes, with all the terrors of outlawry hanging over his head, offered himſelf as a candidate for the city of London. If this circumſtance be aſtoniſhing, it is no leſs ſo that the miniſtry ſuffered him to proſecute his ſchemes without moleſtation. Though he was diſappointed in his hopes of repreſenting the Britiſh metropolis he was not diſpirited; but offered his ſervices to the freeholders of Middleſex, by a conſiderable majority of whom he was elected as one of their repreſentatives in parliament. The miniſtry, who ſeem not to have been poſſeſſed of the ſpirit to conduct hoſtility with vigour, nor of the magnanimity to forgive with a good grace, now revived againſt him the proceedings at law, by the uſual courſe of which his outlawry was confirmed, and he was ſentenced to pay two fines of 500l. each, and to be impriſoned two years. Indignant at the ſeverity of this ſentence, the populace daily aſſembled round the King's Bench priſon, where their favourite was confined, and on the 10th of May, the day on which the new parliament was aſſembled, the endeavours of a military guard to repreſs their animoſity gave riſe to a riot, in the ſuppreſſion of which an innocent individual was unfortunately killed. Mr. Wilkes did not fail to take advantage of this unhappy affair to increaſe the public hatred againſt miniſtry. He publiſhed, with a brief, but highly inflammatory comment, a letter from Lord Weymouth, ſecretary of ſtate, to the Surrey magiſtrates, in which his lordſhip exhorted the juſtices to promptitude and activity, in repelling popular violence by military force.

It ſhould ſeem by the teſtimony of Mr. Almon, who appears to have been well acquainted with all the circumſtances of Mr. Wilkes's proceedings, that, notwithſtanding this provocation, his majeſty's miniſters were far from wiſhing to drive him to extremity. The duke of Grafton, underſtanding that he intended to preſent to the houſe of commons an offenſive petition, intimated to him, by the medium of Mr. Fitzherbert, that if he would abſtain from this act he ſhould retain his ſeat in parliament: and Mr. Fitzherbert added, in confidence, that ſome ſmall ſubmiſſion to the king was all that would be expected to accompliſh, in a very ſhort time, the remiſſion of his fines, and his entire emancipation. The ſubmiſſion to the king Mr. Wilkes ſent in the form of a humble petition. But he could not be perſuaded to alter his reſolution of ſtating his grievances to the houſe of commons. His petition to that body being

being preſented, it was voted to be frivolous; and on his avowal of the publication of the above-mentioned letter of Lord Weymouth, he was expelled the houſe on the third of February, 1769.

As it is ever the generous diſpoſition of the Engliſh public to ſympathize with thoſe who appear to be cruſhed by the ſeverity of power, Mr. Wilkes's popularity daily increaſed. On the 27th of January, 1769, he had been elected alderman of the ward of Farringdon-without. Thrice was he re elected for Middleſex, and as many times was his election declared to be void. The final ſubſtitution of Mr. Henry Luttrell's name for his in the third return, by the authority of the houſe of commons, is a memorable event in our parliamentary hiſtory. This proceeding increaſed the popularity of Mr. Wilkes to ſuch a degree among the opulent and reſpectable members of the community, that an aſſociation was formed for the purpoſe of raiſing ſubſcriptions to liquidate his debts, and to "render him eaſy and independent." The ſociety paid and compounded on his behalf debts to the amount of nearly 24,000l. After this great exertion of public ſpirit, Mr. Wilkes had the modeſty to preſs the aſſociation upon the point of rendering him *eaſy* and *independent*: but, to his great diſſatisfaction, the majority were of opinion that perſecuted patriotiſm had, in this caſe, been ſufficiently remunerated.

On the 17th of April, 1770, Mr. Wilkes was enlarged from his confinement, exonerated from debt, and ſtanding high in the eſtimation of the populace. Being excluded from parliament, he directed his ambition to city honours, and became ſucceſſively ſheriff of London and Middleſex, and lord-mayor of the city of London. At the end of September, 1774, he was unanimouſly re-choſen a member for Middleſex, and took his ſeat in the houſe without oppoſition.

But unprofitable dignities were by no means calculated to ſatisfy his wiſhes. The chamberlainſhip of the city had long been the object of his ardent deſires, and in the year 1779, he obtained that lucrative office. No ſooner did he taſte the ſweets of emolument than his turbulence began to evaporate, and he ſunk, by degrees, into an inactive, ſilent, and inſignificant ſenator. He continued, however, to repreſent the county of Middleſex till the year 1790, when he withdrew from public life, and ſpent the remainder of his days in Epicurean tranquillity. He died on the 26th of December, 1797, at the age of ſeventy. It is worthy of remark, that though in his will he profeſſed to bequeath a conſiderable property, he died inſolvent.

Upon a view of the eventful life of this extraordinary man, it is evident that his pretended patriotiſm grew out of his poverty, and that, if the miniſtry had not refuſed to repair his for-

tunes by dealing out to him a portion of the public revenue, the world would never have heard from him any complaints of the injuries done to his country. That public good accrued from the oppoſition which was made on his behalf to the unwarrantable ſtretches of miniſterial power we will not deny: but to John Wilkes we owe no thanks. Self-intereſt was the ruling principle of his life. In the company of Mr. Gibbon (a man as ſelfiſh as himſelf) he declared, that from the diſſentions which he ſaw ariſing in his country he was determined to make his fortune*. This is the clue which guides us through all the intricacies of his conduct. To this maxim he firmly adhered; and in the proſecution of this object he evinced a courage and a ſkill which, in a better cauſe, would have juſtly entitled him to the enthuſiaſtic admiration with which he was ſo long regarded by the great maſs of the Engliſh public.

It has often been obſerved, that the moſt profligate men ſometimes pay an involuntary homage to virtue. This is exemplified in the letters of Mr. Wilkes to his daughter, which breathe a ſpirit of tenderneſs, and a concern for her honour and happineſs, which may be allowed to weigh conſiderably in the balance againſt his vices. Pity it is that ſuch men as Mr. Wilkes cannot be perſuaded to "do unto others as they wiſh others to do unto them;" and to reflect, that their wives and daughters are not the only females whoſe welfare is the object of the fond ſolicitude of relatives and friends. But ſelfiſhneſs is never juſt; and men of the world commit, without remorſe, injuries which they are ready to reſent with implacable vengeance when offered to themſelves. Such men may be qualified to become ſtateſmen, in the vulgar acceptation of the word; —they may even make a figure in parliament, but patriotiſm diſclaims them; for how can he be expected to be faithful to the public who is faithleſs to individuals? May Heaven preſerve our country from the counſels of thoſe men who, after having ruined themſelves by profligacy, endeavour, by fomenting the turbulence of faction, to force themſelves into ſituations in which they may ſecurely feed upon the revenues of the ſtate!

* See Gibbon's Poſthumous Works, vol. i.

Political Remarks on Bonaparte's Aſſumption of the Title of Emperor.

THIS eminently ſucceſsful character is now the crowned emperor of France. His coronation was performed with all the ſolemnity and magnificence that are generally diſplayed on ſimilar occaſions. The Corſican and the uſurper, as many,

in imitation of the invectives of Demoſthenes againſt Philip, love to term him, is become, like Charlemagne, the head of a new dynaſty. His right, like that of the heads of moſt dynaſties, is really founded upon the ſword: the addreſſes to him from the ſenate attribute it to the free choice of the ſovereign people, of whom between three and four millions gave their ſuffrages for his aſcent to the imperial throne, and for the preſervation of the imperial dignity in his family.

Whatever weight this may have had upon the mind of the emperor, it is certainly a remarkable deference to public opinion; and there cannot be a doubt that multitudes in France will be ſo far ſwayed by it, as to believe their monarch's pretenſions to authority upon the people's choice equally valid with thoſe of his predeceſſor founded on birth. Our William the conqueror did not diſdain the ſame art, and at his coronation, both Saxons and Normans were aſked, whether they elected him for their ſovereign of England: and the loud acclamations of the foreigners and natives, teſtifying their approbation within the church of Weſtminſter, being unhappily conſtrued by the Norman ſoldiers without, into a tumult againſt their lord, occaſioned the death of many of their Engliſh fellow ſubjects.

Whatever may be the claims of the new emperor, he has now poſſeſſion of the throne. The bravery of a ſoldier, the talents of a ſtateſman, and fortune, to uſe his own language, have conducted him to this elevation. To preſerve himſelf in his ſeat, the ſame talents are requiſite; and, by his anſwer to the ſenate, he points out the real truth of the riſe and fall of thrones: and his aſſertion is juſt, that, when a family is irreſolute, and mutable in its counſels, regardful of its own intereſts, and not thoſe of the nation, it deſervedly is thrown from its high rank, and leaves the poſt to be occupied by a more ſpirited ſucceſſor.

Engliſh politicians propheſy the fall of the new family, and declare the upſtart incapable of maintaining his poſt, becauſe his throne is not ſurrounded with hereditary nobility, and he has it not in his power to form around him a body of dukes and princes. Theſe unfortunate common place writers either never knew, or have forgotten that the word duke means only the general of an army, and that the emigrant nobility of France are repreſentatives merely of thoſe generals who once performed to Charlemagne and his ſucceſſors the ſame office as the lately created marſhals of France have done to Bonaparte. Hereditary nobility is not neceſſary alſo to monarchy, for the greateſt and oldeſt monarchy in the world has ſubſiſted, and does ſubſiſt, without it. Becauſe certain inſtitutions have ſubſiſted at certain times, and in certain places, it does not follow that they muſt not give way to the circumſtances of other times; and the emperor will find no great difficulty in inventing marks of dignity,

which

which will be as much coveted and reſpected as thoſe conferred by the kings his predeceſſors.

To us it is of no ſort of conſequence whether he is a king, or conſul, or emperor. He is the head of a great nation now at war with us, and that nation has exerted the ſame power which this nation did in the laſt century, when, ſetting aſide the hereditary claims to the crown, it raiſed the Brunſwick family to a throne. We cannot, however, fail of noticing the remarkable circumſtances in the change of families, and the modes by which they are operated. Little did the Bourbon family think, when it purchaſed Corſica from the Genoeſe, and when it prided itſelf on baffling the efforts of the Britiſh adminiſtration to aſſiſt the gallant Paoli, and the brave defenders of his iſland's independence, that a few years would produce ſo ſtriking a contraſt, and that the ſon of one of the enſlaved Corſicans would trample on its dignities, and leave its deſcendants to a precarious ſubſiſtence on foreign powers.

The aid of religion has always been called in to ſanctify the proceedings by which a ſovereign is entitled to the allegiance of his ſubjects. This, being an avowal on the part both of ſovereign and ſubjects of their dependence on a ſuperior and inviſible power, cannot but be conſidered as a very important ceremony; and however it may have been impaired by ſuperſtitious rites or doctrines, it is in its end and deſign deſerving of human reverence. A mind like that of the emperor would naturally avail itſelf of ſuch a circumſtance; and as the catholic religion is profeſſed by the great majority of his ſubjects, he would of courſe, and did, look to the moſt dignified character in that perſuaſion to perform the rites which were to be uſed on his coronation.

The emperor of France acquieſced in the religious ſentiments of his ſubjects, but he would not accept the crown from the ſuppoſed ſacred hands of one whoſe predeceſſors had been accuſtomed to give and to claim the right of giving them away. This is a mark of proteſtantiſm which peculiarly deſerves attention, and ſhews that, though France is returned to its ancient ſuperſtition, the civil power has emancipated itſelf from the degrading ſubjection under which it had long been held to the ſuppoſed rights of the church. The pope in his council declared the motives for his journey to ariſe, in great degree, from gratitude to the ſovereign of France for the benefits of the concordat, and the reſtoration through his means of his kingdom to the boſom of the church. Still the weakneſs of the papal power is evident in this meaſure, and every true proteſtant will rejoice that its throne is ſhaken: it is now tottering, and in one or two more generations its pretenſions will be more tho-

roughly ſifted, and Chriſtians will diſdain to receive their faith from the impure ſources of eccleſiaſtic tradition.

Deſcription of a Summer's Evening in Italy, with an Account of a narrow Eſcape from Pirates during an Excurſion on the Sea.

[From Caſſas's Travels.]

THOSE who are unacquainted with the beauty of the evenings in Italy, can form no idea of the ſpectacle afforded by nature in theſe regions, when the ſun has ſunk beneath the horizon. The abſence of this luminary cauſes a ceſſation of heat; the calorific clouds diſperſe, the ſea and the mountains towards the weſt are deprived of their purple tinge, and the ſky exhibits nothing but one vaſt expanſe of azure, beneath which innumerable zephyrs gently move; while every thing adds to the majeſtic ſilence of night, as it gradually advances, embalmed with the odour of delicious flowers. At this charming period every thing tends to produce the moſt pleaſing and voluptuous ſenſations, and the expanded mind gratefully contemplates the magnificence of the univerſe. At ſuch a time, it ſeems ſcarcely poſſible that wicked men ſhould be employed in preparing to commit their crimes; but the human heart is corrupt, and this painful reflection deprived our travellers, in a great degree, of the pleaſure they would have derived from ſuch an evening as that which we have depicted. In the midſt of the moſt ſublime ſpectacle of the omnipotence of the Creator, they [M. Caſſas and M. Grappin] were obliged to recollect that they were men, and to think about their perſonal ſecurity. They accordingly put into a ſmall creek, formed by rocks, where they landed; and, tearing off a number of branches from ſome contiguous trees, they ſpread them over their boat, which, by this means, together with the obſcurity afforded by the ſhade of the rocks, was rendered ſcarcely perceptible. They then retired to a ſhort diſtance, and concealed themſelves amongſt ſome buſhes.

It was now eleven o'clock, and the pale light of the moon had ſucceeded to the mild darkneſs of the evening, which ſlowly approaches towards the weſt, where the twilight continues to linger till a late hour. All nature was enveloped in ſilence, and one might figuratively be ſaid to hear the approach of night. Even the tide only tranſmitted, at long intervals, a few gentle waves towards the chaſms in the rocks, and the monotonous harmony of their motion was almoſt loſt in the immenſity of ſpace; when ſuddenly a faint noiſe was heard at a diſtance, which excited the vigilance of our travellers, who ſoon aſcertained that

it

it was occaſioned by regular ſtrokes of the oar. The ſound gradually increaſed, as did the alarm of our party, who knew not whether thoſe who approached were friends or enemies. At firſt they were in hopes that the ſtrangers would paſs, but they were deceived, for the bark approached nearly alongſide of their own, though it was not perceived by the crew: at length they landed, and began to pry about them, while their arms ſtruck againſt the hoſpitable buſh which concealed our adventurers. Their ſenſations may be more eaſily conceived than deſcribed; —the ſlighteſt motion, ſigh, or inſpiration, might cauſe their deſtruction. In a ſhort time they heard the banditti ſwearing at each other; "They are not here," ſaid the plunderers, "they have gone farther on, and we have miſſed them."

They, in this ſtrain, regretted the loſs of their prey, and that they had not been able to ſhed blood; they accuſed each other of tardineſs and negligence, and each endeavoured to acquit himſelf of blame, on ſuch a noble occaſion: indeed, it was a chance that a civil war had not broken out amongſt them, becauſe they had loſt the opportunity of committing a crime, while our travellers were the unfortunate objects of their ſearch; and, at this inſtant, they were cloſe againſt them! At laſt, they reſolved to put off again in purſuit of the fugitives, expreſſing their hopes that they ſhould overtake them; and vowing vengeance againſt them for the fatigue they had experienced. With this intent they re-embarked; and the friendly oar ſoon diſſipated the fears of our party, and delivered them from any farther information of the projects of the banditti.

This adventre was ſufficient to diſguſt them with nocturnal navigation; while it tended to deter them from paſſing the night at a diſtance from inhabited places: they, therefore, impatiently waited for the return of day; and, as ſoon as it appeared, they gladly quitted a rock, at which they had run a chance of terminating their adventures.

They continued, during the day, to cruize along the coaſt, the aſpect of which was as mild and deſolate as can be conceived, till they arrived at Zara. Rocks projecting at intervals, barren and ſhapeleſs thickets, no ſoil nor cultivation, the heavy verdure of aromatic plants, maſtic ſhrubs, fennel, hemlock, and rue; a burning ſun, producing a degree of heat almoſt inſupportable, and the remembrance of the dangers they had eſcaped overnight;—ſuch were the ſubject and the reflections which, during fourteen hours fatigued their eyes, their ſenſes, and their imagination. At length, they reached Zara, where they waited upon Dr. Stratico and Captain Gerouſi, two enlightened and amiable men; who, by the moſt affable reception, endeavoured to make them forget the ſtorms of Carnero, and the pirates of the Punta Dura.

Sketch

Sketch of that reſpectable naval Character, Lieutenant T. Davies.

IN July laſt died, at Jamaica, Lieutenant T. Davies, of the Port Mahon ſloop of war. He was educated in the mathematical department of Chriſt's Hoſpital, and apprenticed on board a Weſt Indiaman, in which ſervice, previous to the expiration of his indenture, he had arrived at the ſtation of ſecond mate, when (about twelve years ſince) he was impreſſed into his majeſty's ſervice, and ſent on board the Thetis frigate, at that time commanded by Captain (now Admiral) Cochrane. That brave and intelligent commander ſoon diſcovering him to be an able mathematician as well as an expert navigator, and that he poſſeſſed talents in other reſpects of the moſt uſeful nature, though frequently obſcured by an innate diffidence, favoured him with his patronage, and took every opportunity of rendering his ſituation as little irkſome as the nature of the ſervice would admit.

With Captain Cochrane he continued nearly ſix years in the North Sea and on the American ſtation, returning from the latter of which, his patron was removed to the Ajax, of 80 guns, when he took the ſubject of this memoir (then a midſhipman) with him. On the ſailing of the Egyptian expedition, he was appointed acting lieutenant of the Renommé, and at the diſembarkation of the troops, commanded one of the boats employed in that ſervice. When they had neared the ſhore, three of the men were killed by a ball, and before he could receive an anſwer to his queſtion, whether the boat was damaged, a ſhell fell in the centre of it, which killed five more, wounded eight, and ſunk the boat. The remainder of the crew and ſoldiers, however, with the exception of one, were ſaved by the exertions of ſome of the other boats.

On the landing being effected, Lieutenant Davies was appointed to the command of the diviſion of boats employed to act on the Lake Madié, in conſequence of which, he reſided in a tent for ſeveral months, on the banks of that lake; and performed the duty allotted to him to the complete ſatisfaction of his ſuperior officers, for which he was honoured with a gold medal by the grand ſultan, as a reward for his ſervices. On the return of the expedition, his appointment as lieutenant was confirmed by the board of admiralty, and at the concluſion of the late war he retired on half-pay, and was married to a moſt amiable woman, a native of the ſiſter kingdom. But no ſooner did hoſtilities recommence, than he offered his ſervices, and was appointed to the Port Mahon ſloop, which ſhortly after ſailed for the Weſt Indies, whoſe baneful climate has, of late, proved ſo deſtructive to numbers of our gallant countrymen.

His conſtitution, enervated by fatigue, and alternate reſidence in various climes, was unable to cope with the malignancy of its atmoſphere, and a diarrhœa put a period to his exiſtence in the prime of manhood, having only attained his 35th year.—In a letter written by him in the almoſt certainty of approaching death, he diſplayed the moſt heroic fortitude, combined with a pious reſignation; and although he had many inducements to attach him to this life, yet he did not ſuffer a ſingle murmur, or a repining expreſſion, to eſcape his lips; the weakneſs of his body never overcame the fortitude of his mind, which preſerved its wonted ſtrength and vigour, even to his laſt moment.

SINGULAR CUSTOMS *of the* BRAMINS.

WHEN the perſons who attended a funeral return home, and approach the houſe-door, they each bite three leaves of nimba between their teeth, ſip water, and touch a branch of læmi with their right hand, while the prieſt ſays, "May fire grant us happineſs;" and ſtanding between a bull and a goat, they touch both thoſe animals, while the prieſt recites an appropriate prayer: and before any one enters into his houſe, the prieſt ſays for him, "May I be firm like this ſtone!" upon which he ſtands.

During ten days, funeral cakes with libations are to be offered; and ſo long as the mourning laſts, the neareſt relations of the deceaſed muſt not exceed one meal daily, nor eat fleſh meat, nor any food ſeaſoned with factitious ſalt; they muſt uſe a plate made of the leaves of any tree but the plaintain, or take their food from the hands of ſome other perſons; they muſt not handle a knife or any implement of iron; nor ſleep upon a bedſtead, nor adorn their perſons, but remain ſqualid, and refrain from perfumes, and other gratifications; they muſt likewiſe omit the daily ceremonies of ablution and divine worſhip. On the third, fifth, ſeventh, and ninth days, the kinſmen aſſemble, bathe in the open air, offer tila and water to the deceaſed, and take a repaſt together; they place lamps at croſs roads, and in their own houſes, and likewiſe on the way to the cemetery, and they obſerve vigils in honour of the deceaſed.

We ſhall now notice ſome miſcellaneous cuſtoms:—The houſeholder is injoined to give daily alms, but no particular time is preſcribed for the diſtribution of them: he is ſimply directed to give food to religious mendicants whenever they come to his door; but eſpecially if they come at the time when food is ready for his own meal. It is alſo the common practice to feed a cow before the houſeholder breaks his own faſt. He either preſents

ſents graſs, water, and corn to her, with this text, "Daughter of Surabbi, framed of five elements, auſpicious, pure, holy, ſprung from the ſun, accept this food given by me;" or elſe, he conducts the kine to graſs ſaying, "May cows, who are mothers of three worlds, and daughters of Surabbi, and who are beneficent, pure, and holy, accept the food given by me!"

Hindoo legiſlators have heaped together a multitude of precepts, many of them trivial and abſurd. Some relate to diet, prohibiting many ſorts of food; forbidding the conſtant uſe of others; in ſeveral, the time of taking nouriſhment is ſpecified, and the perſons with whom it is to be taken are particularly mentioned. Directions are given as to the poſture in which a Hindoo muſt ſit, and the point of the heavens to which he muſt look.

After waſhing his hands and feet, and ſipping water without ſwallowing it, he ſits down on a ſtool, or on a cuſhion, before his plate, which muſt be placed on a clean ſpot of ground, that has been wiped and ſmoothed, in a quadrangular form, if he be a Bramahna; a triangular one, if he be a Cſhatriya; circular, if he be a Vaiſya; and in the ſhape of a creſcent, if he belong to the fourth tribe. When the food is firſt brought in, he is required to bow to it, raiſing both hands, in the form of humble ſalutation, to his forehead, and ſaying, "May this be always our's;" that is, "May food never be deficient!" When he has ſat down, he ſhould lift the plate with his left hand, and bleſs the food, ſaying, "Thou art invigorating." He ſets it down, naming the three words, or if the food be handed to him, he ſays "May Heaven give thee," and receives it with theſe words, "The earth accepts thee;" before he begins eating, he muſt move his hand round the plate, to inſulate it, or his own perſon rather, from the reſt of the company. He next offers five lumps of food to Yama, by five different titles; he ſips and ſwallows water, he makes five oblations to breath by five diſtinct names, and laſtly, he wets both eyes. He then eats his repaſt in ſilence, lifting his food with all the fingers of his right hand, and afterwards again ſips water, ſaying, "Ambroſial fluid! thou art the couch of Viſhnu and of food."

Account of an extraordinary Darkneſs off Newfoundland.

[From the MONTHLY MAGAZINE.]

To the EDITOR,

SIR,

THE following account of an extraordinary darkneſs which occurred on the coaſt of Newfoundland, about the time of

the ſummer ſolſtice, and which I received a few days ſince from my brother, will probably be acceptable to your readers, and may recall to the recollection of thoſe who are in the habit of making meteorological obſervations, an extraordinary appearance in the atmoſphere in this country, about the ſame time, which I think there is reaſon to believe may be attributed to the ſame cauſe, and be connected with the appearance noticed on the coaſt of America. My brother was on his paſſage from Newfoundland to Miramichi, in Nova Scotia, and I ſhall give his account in his own words.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. Henry Briſtowe, commanding the Ship Poole, dated Miramichi, June 28, 1804.

"ON my paſſage to this place an extraordinary circumſtance occurred, which I believe muſt have been ſeen in ſome parts of Newfoundland, though the people here ſaw nothing of it. I was, on Sunday, the 17th inſtant, about two leagues to the ſouthward of the iſland of St. Peter; at day-break it was dark and gloomy, the ſun roſe like a ball of fire, and diſappeared in an inſtant, obſcured in thick, dark, red, and yellow clouds; and at eight o'clock I could ſcarcely ſee to get my breakfaſt without a light; at intervals it lightened up a little, and continued ſo 'till eleven o'clock, when it became totally dark, ſo much ſo that I put my head down to the binnacle, and could no more ſee the compaſs than I could at twelve o'clock in a very dark night, without a light; my cook was obliged to get a light to ſee if his copper boiled. The fire burned pale, or rather of a purple caſt. It continued totally dark for about twenty minutes, when it cleared away, firſt to the northward. The iſland of St. Peter looked juſt as the land does in the night when the moon emerges from a thick black cloud, which hangs over the land, and a yard or two of clear ſky (to appearance) between the land and clouds, and all round the horizon beſides as dark as pitch. The clouds all the day were of a blood red and yellow—no rain, and but little wind from the weſt north-weſt. My people were all frightened; it was a grand, but awful ſight. I think you would have been glad to have ſeen it.

"HEN. BRISTOWE."

A QUESTION, *by W. Tucker, of Tilſhead School, Wilts.*

ON the oppoſite bank of a river are two houſes, the diſtance of which apart I was told was 480 yards; with the place where I ſtood at right angles to that on the right hand they formed an angle of 60° 30′: What is the breadth of the river?

Anſwer, by Recluſe, of Aſhburton, to T. Rutger's Rebus, inſerted December 3.

THE letters AA, Sir, you mean,
Three foreign rivers they'll explain.

*** We have received the like anſwer from J. Chubb, of Everſhot; John Channon, of Ottery; and W. Commins, S. Murch, R. Holwell, and Thomas Whicker, of Exeter.

Anſwer, by Primroſe, of Taunton, to W. Gifford's Rebus, inſerted December 3.

SEATED within the ALCOVE's calm receſs,
On tow'ring wing the contemplative muſe
Ambitious ſoars th' etherial heights ſublime,
Enjoying intellectual, ſweet delights,
While ſilence, grateful ſilence, reigns around.

*** We have received ſimilar anſwers from T. Whicker, P. Gove, and R. Holwell, of Exeter; Recluſe, of Awliſcombe; T. Jarvis, of Malborough; G. Hann, jun. of Stoke Abbot; W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; W. Lawrence, of St. Agnes; J Lewis, of Poole; and A. Kyne, jun. of Dartmouth.

A CHARADE, *by T. Jarvis, of Malborough.*

TO find my firſt procure a faithful mate;
Oft in my next how many meet their fate!
Come, ye judicious youths, diſplay my whole,
With love unfeign'd, and unity of ſoul.

A CHARADE, *by T. Rutger, of Clowance.*

MY fav'rite ſcience, Sirs, explain,
You'll then my firſt expound;
Among the thouſands it contains
My ſecond may be found.
In its ſweet charms ſuch contraſts flow,
On that far diſtant ſhore,
Where ſtands my whole, oft 'venturers go
New beauties to explore.

An ENIGMA, *by J. Paſcal.*

AVAUNT thou tyrant to domeſtic joy!
Nor with thy preſence dare my peace annoy.
Monſter away! for know I thee deteſt,
Thou ne'er ſhalt fix thy empire in my breaſt.
Thy arts inſidious ſhall not me betray,
Nor tempt me in thy thorny paths to ſtray.
Deluded men too oft are led by thee
From ſcenes of bliſs to taſte of miſery.
The lovely virgin, and the faithful wife,
Curſe and revile thee as the cauſe of ſtrife;
For thou doſt every ſpecious wile employ
To ruin friendſhip, and true love deſtroy.
Murder itſelf is often cauſed by thee,
And other deeds replete with villany;
For thou'rt malicious, treacherous, mean, and baſe,
A peſt and torment to the human race.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

A TALE.

SO prone are all men to debate,
And warn us of the wiles of fate,
So eager to condemn the crimes,
That blot theſe unregenerate times,
I ſometimes fancy that I meet
A moraliſt in every ſtreet.
But, mark their life—that ſureſt teſt—
You'll catch them tripping like the reſt;
And half the follies they condemn
Are plainly viſible in them:
The truth of which remark to ſhew
I have a tale quite *apropos*.

Over a glaſs of Burton's beſt,
Tim thus his loving friend addreſs'd:
" Well, Peter, 'tis a ſhameful ſin,
" That Dick ſhould ſwill ſuch ſeas of gin;
" Oft from the tavern drunk he reels,
" With Tag and Bobtail at his heels.
" Nay, for *my* part, I cannot think,
" What makes the man ſo fond of drink."

" Nor I (ſaid Peter, with a groan)
" 'Tis vaſtly wonderful I own:
" But bleſs me! what a change appears
" Within the ſpace of forty years!
" The world gets more deprav'd, I'm ſure,—
" Heav'n knows 'twas bad enough before."

" True (anſwer'd Tim), good Peter! true;
" But ſee—the *bottle* ſtands with *you*."

" Beſides (ſays Peter) of all crimes,
" That haunt theſe diſſipated times,
" Dick's fav'rite is the greateſt peſt,
" And makes more fools than all the reſt.
" The man addicted, Tim, to drinking
" Will daily find his credit ſinking;
" His reputation ſoon decays,
" And miſ'ry on his boſom preys,
" 'Till waſted by diſeaſe and pain,
" Death ends his tranſitory reign."

" Yes (anſwered Tim), and fill'd his glaſs)
" Dick's crimes all other crimes ſurpaſs;
" I ſcorn the man who, blind to ſhame,
" With ſuch baſe ſtigmas blots his name;
" And, careleſs of a future ſtate,
" Thus trifles with the ſhafts of fate.
" But ſee, my friend, the *wine* is out,
" You'll *wet the other eye*, no doubt;
" We well may ſit a little later,
" So—bring *another bottle*, waiter!"

Thus

Thus ſtill, in many a ſpeech ſublime,
They painted Dick's beſetting crime;
'Till drunk as drills, and ſcarcely able,
To ſee diſtinctly o'er the table,
And heedleſs what each other ſaid,
The roaring ſinners reel'd to bed.

The very fault they thus condemn,
Dick, the next evening, found in *them*;
Whilſt Peter gravely rail'd at *him*,
Who rail'd as heartily at *him*.

COLIN.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

SONNET.

HOW charming 'tis to riſe at early dawn,
And watch the progreſs of the new-born day!
Then trace the flowery groves, or verdant lawn,
When firſt Aurora beams the golden ray;
To hear the ſoaring lark his carol ſing,
The ploughman whiſtling thro' the woody vale,
The jingling bells that deck the labouring team,
And feel the early-riſing, ſpicy gale;
To pluck the lily and the wild-blown roſe,
With boſoms pregnant with the pearly dew;
To ſcent the fragrance that the meads diſcloſe,
Perfum'd by flowers breathing ſweets anew.
Delicious pleaſures! far above the joys,
That flow from crouded cities, full of noiſe.

February, 1805.

J. PASCAL.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

To Mary, on the Author's leaving England.

THO' I fly from thy ſight on the wings of the wind,
Tho' perhaps to be with thee no more,
Yet my heart, O believe me, ſtill lingers behind,
Is ſtill true to the girl I adore.

O! who, without agonies, ever could fly
From the maid whom he lov'd to exceſs?
Or who could e'er part, without heaving a ſigh,
From the friends he had prov'd in diſtreſs?

Moſt beauteous of women! no more I'll behold
Thoſe ſmiles which were heaven to me,
'Till from Lucknow, endow'd with the magic of gold,
I can love whom I like, and be free.

Were I even exalted on Tamerlane's throne,
And did millions bow down to my nod,
E'en conceited, like Macedon's chief, were I grown,
And believ'd I was ſprung from a god.

Should but thy lov'd form o'er my fancy to riſe,
Should you ſeem to repine at my fate,
Should you ſeem to expreſs, by thoſe beautiful eyes,
That you I'd forſaken for ſtate;

The ſcepter, dear girl! ſhould be ſpurn'd from my hand,
I no more would the diadem wear;
But with rapture reſign the imperial command,
And with thee to a cottage repair.

THE RED CROSS KNIGHT.